

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1438

To encourage States to enact and enforce laws ensuring that motor vehicles yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6 (legislative day, JUNE 30), 1993

Mr. STEVENS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To encourage States to enact and enforce laws ensuring that motor vehicles yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Transit of Pedes-  
5 trians Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) approximately 7,000 pedestrians are killed,  
9 and 100,000 pedestrians are injured, annually in the  
10 United States by motor vehicles;

1           (2) accidents involving pedestrians cost the  
2 economy of the United States more than  
3 \$10,000,000,000 per year because of injuries, vehi-  
4 cle damage, insurance costs, and lost productivity;

5           (3) poor children, minority children, the elderly,  
6 and people with disabilities are subject to the great-  
7 est degree of risk of being involved in a pedestrian  
8 accident; and

9           (4) even in States where motor vehicles must  
10 yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, pedestrian  
11 deaths and injuries continue because pedestrian  
12 right-of-way laws are not effectively enforced.

13       (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

14           (1) to stop the large number of pedestrian  
15 deaths and injuries caused by motor vehicles;

16           (2) to save billions of dollars attributable to  
17 damage caused by pedestrian accidents each year;  
18 and

19           (3) to ensure that motor vehicle operators exer-  
20 cise due care when driving near pedestrians.

21 **SEC. 3. SPEED LIMITS.**

22       Section 154 of title 23, United States Code, is  
23 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “The Sec-  
2 retary” and inserting the following: “Subject to sub-  
3 section (j), the Secretary”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
5 section:

6 “(j) ADJUSTMENT OF SPEED LIMITS.—Notwith-  
7 standing any other provision of law, after September 30,  
8 1995, if a State does not have in effect, and is not enforc-  
9 ing to the maximum extent practicable, a State law that  
10 ensures that the driver of a motor vehicle yields the right-  
11 of-way to, and stops for, a pedestrian who is legally in  
12 the roadway and is exercising due care—

13 “(1) paragraph (1) of subsection (a) shall be  
14 applied with respect to the State by substituting ‘50’  
15 for ‘fifty-five’; and

16 “(2) paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a)  
17 shall be applied with respect to the State by sub-  
18 stituting ‘50’ for ‘65.’.”.

19 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.**

20 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
21 of this Act the Secretary of Transportation shall, after  
22 providing public notice and opportunity for comment,  
23 issue regulations to carry out this Act and the amend-  
24 ments made by this Act.

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